



Report of: Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting of	Date	Ward(s)
Executive	10 September 2020	All

Delete as appropriate:	Exempt	Non-exempt
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Subject: Equalities in Educational Outcomes – Findings of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report requests that the Executive receive the report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee following the completion of its review of Equalities in Educational Outcomes. A response to the recommendations set out in the report will be considered at a future meeting of the Executive.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee be received.
- 2.2 That the Executive Member's response be reported to a future meeting of the Executive, including having due regard to any relevant implications of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee's recommendations.

3. Background

- 3.1 The review was held between July 2019 and February 2020. The overall aim of the review was to assess equalities in educational outcomes for Black Caribbean pupils and disadvantaged White British pupils eligible for pupil premium funding. The Committee has monitored the attainment gap between these groups and the overall cohort for several years and wished to review the reasons for this gap and how these issues are being addressed.

3.2 The Committee also agreed to the following objectives:

- To analyse and clarify underperformance intersectionally in these key groups over the past 5 years both locally and nationally;
- To use existing national research and literature to identify the barriers to improving educational attainment for these key groups in Islington schools;
- To explore the ways in which school leaders drive up the progress and attainment of identified groups informed by best practice from schools that buck the trend;
- To secure agreement and commitment on the strategies that will improve outcomes for these groups at each key stage and on into further education, employment and training;
- To identify the causes of underperformance including the impact of factors such as attendance and exclusion;
- Engage parents, pupils, communities and stakeholders in dialogue to find productive ways forward and guide future action;
- To better understand the views of children and young people, parents and community groups on how performance for key groups can be improved;
- To produce workable recommendations for the Council and schools to deliver sustainable improvements in educational outcomes across schools and beyond in Islington;
- To call to action all the Council's services and functions to improve outcomes for identified groups;
- To evaluate the work already underway to reduce the attainment gap and to identify how this could be developed further.

3.3 In carrying out the review the Committee met with young people, Headteachers and school staff, council officers, independent experts and others to gain a balanced view. The Committee also considered local and national data and a variety of documentary evidence.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

The proposals in the report need to be costed before a response is made by the Executive.

4.2 Legal Implications

Relevant legal implications will be considered as part of the response to the review.

4.3 Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030:

There are no environmental implications or contributions to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030 at this stage. Any environmental implications and contributions to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030 will be identified as part of the Executive Member response.

4.4 Resident Impact Assessment

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

The Committee has had regard to any equalities implications and resident impacts identified by witnesses during the course of the review. Details of any such implications are set out in the appended report. A Resident Impact Assessment has not been completed as the Executive is only asked to receive the report at this stage. The impact on residents will need to be fully considered as part of the Executive response to the review, at which point a Resident Impact Assessment will be completed if required.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 3.1 Fourteen recommendations have been made in response to the evidence received. These are related to values, aspirations and relationships; supporting children and young people's wellbeing through the curriculum; developing school processes to offer the best support to children and young people; and developing council services. The Committee would like to thank all the witnesses that gave evidence in relation to the review. The Executive is asked to endorse the Committee's recommendations.

Appendices:

- Equalities in Educational Outcomes – Report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Background papers:

- None.

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